

THOSE WHO KNOW



ISSUE #4

AND THEN WE WERE BACK ON EARTH



AND WE WALKED IN COMPLETE SILENCE BACK TO THE SCHOOL

WITHOUT SAYING A WORD, WE ALL SNUCK BACK INTO OUR DORMS

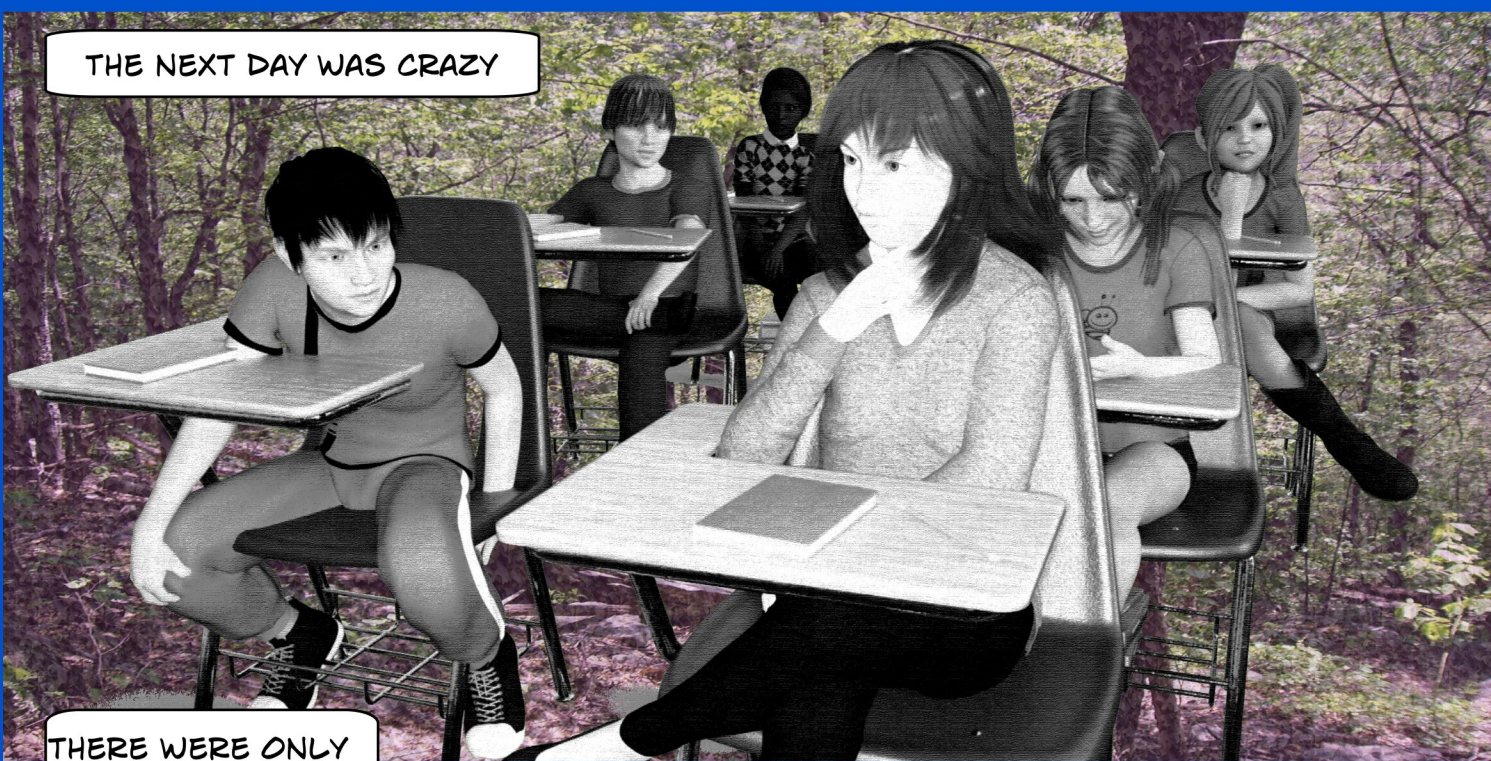


I DON'T THINK ANY OF US SLEPT THAT NIGHT



THERE WAS TOO MUCH FOR US TO THINK ABOUT

THE NEXT DAY WAS CRAZY



THERE WERE ONLY FIVE TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL



SO FOR ONE OF THEM TO DISAPPEAR OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH WAS STRANGE

AND THEN THEY FOUND HIS PHOTOS OF US



DON'T KILL



ALWAYS AVOID



KILL NEXT



KILL FIRST

SO WE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TALKING TO THE POLICE

BECAUSE POLAROID'S OF STUDENTS WAS SOMETHING THEY HAD SEEN BEFORE,

BUT A KILL / DON'T KILL LIST, MADE THEM THINK MAYBE WE KILLED HIM FIRST

WHICH AT THE MOMENT WAS WHAT WE THOUGHT AND FELT WE HAD DONE

SO THEY SPENT A LOT OF EFFORT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE DID NOT TALK TO EACH OTHER

BUT THE STORY OF TEENAGERS SNEAKING OUT AFTER CURFEW ULTIMATELY CHECKED OUT TO THEM



AFTER THAT, THE ADULTS LEFT US ALONE...

AND SOMETIMES THAT IS WHAT YOU NEED TO JUST BE WITH THE WORLD IN SILENCE FOR A WHILE TO LET THAT QUIET COME TO YOU AND LET YOU THINK WITHOUT THINKING AND THEN KNOW WITHOUT WONDERING WHY YOU KNOW

THE WAY THAT ONLY THAT KIND OF SILENCE CAN YOU HEAR YOURSELF



TO EXPLORE THE WOODS....



...TO EXPLORE OUR FEELINGS...



TO LET OURSELVES FALL IN LOVE



TO EXPLORE OUR POWERS



I STILL WISH THAT WAS THE ONE I HAD GOTTEN, TO BE ABLE TO BE ANYWHERE, INSTANTLY, TO BE ABLE TO BE A HUNDRED PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME TO GET THE SPICE OF A PLACE AND THEN THE SPICE OF THE OTHER PLACE, BUT MAYBE THAT IS MORE THAT I HAVE BEEN IN THIS PLACE FOR SO LONG AND THAT TIME SEEMS FREE, AND SHE WAS THE FREEST PERSON I KNEW.



LIKE THE MAGIC OF THE WORLD UNFILLED

LATER THAT MONTH

CLASS, I KNOW THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN REALLY HARD

SO THIS FRIDAY, WE ARE GOING TO HEAD TO THE CITY AND VISIT ART GALLERYS

AND SO TO GET READY THIS WEEK WE ARE TAKING A BREAK FROM NORMAL CLASSES

TO LEARN ABOUT THE ART WE ARE GOING TO SEE AND HOW IT IS MADE

THE HUMAN EYE IS ABLE TO DISTINGUISH MORE THAN A MILLION COLORS

AND DEPENDING ON THE COLORS THAT ARE NEXT TO EACH OTHER AN ARTIST CAN CREATE AN ALMOST INFINITE PALETTE

HOW COME THE POLICE STOPPED ASKING QUESTIONS SO EASILY?

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH HOMEWORK THEY GIVE

MAYBE SALLY AND I CAN SNEAK AWAY FROM THE GROUP AND GET BUBBLE TEA

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WE LEFT THEM BEHIND

THE ART GALLERY WAS AMAZING, EVERY ROOM WAS LIKE ITS OWN LITTLE DISPLAY OF SOMEONES WORLD



AFTER EVERYTHING WE HAD BEEN THROUGH, AND NOT BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT IT WAS SUCH A NICE BREAK OF SAFETY AND HAPPINESS AND HOPE. EVEN THE TEACHERS, WHO HAD WORKED WITH TED FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS LET THERE GUARD DOWN AND ENJOYED THE BEAUTY



IT DIDNT MATTER WHAT THE GUIDE WAS SAYING ABOUT THEMES OR THE ARTIST'S REACTION TO ANOTHER ARTIST



IT WAS JUST A SPACE OUTSIDE OF LIFE, IT'S CONTENT WASN'T WHAT MATTERED, IT WAS THE SPACE IT HELD FOR US TO BE WITH AND THERE FOR EACH OTHER, WITHOUT NEEDING TO SAY ALL THE WORDS, SINCE THE WORDS WOULD HAVE DISTRACTED FROM THE BEING.



MAYBE THE ART WAS REALLY GOOD AND IT INSPIRED US AND LIFTED OUR SPIRITS MAYBE BUT I THINK IT WAS THE DISTANCE FROM OUR LIVES FOR THOSE FEW HOURS AND THE FORCED CENTRAL AIR THOUGH THE FLOOR DUCK WORK WHICH TRANSPORTED US ALL JUST AS MUCH AS ANY OF OUR POWERS COULD.



ALMOST LIKE AN AQUARIUM, THE WAY THEY FEEL LIKE BEING UNDERGROUND, BUT YOU CAN SEE THE SEA ON THE HORIZON.

AFTER A FUN DAY OUT, WE WERE OPEN AND TALKIVE AGAIN, BACK TO SHARING WITH OUR FRIENDS

I CAN, LIKE, ASK THE UNIVERSE A QUESTION AND IT WILL TELL ME THE ANSWER

SO WHAT IS YOUR POWER?

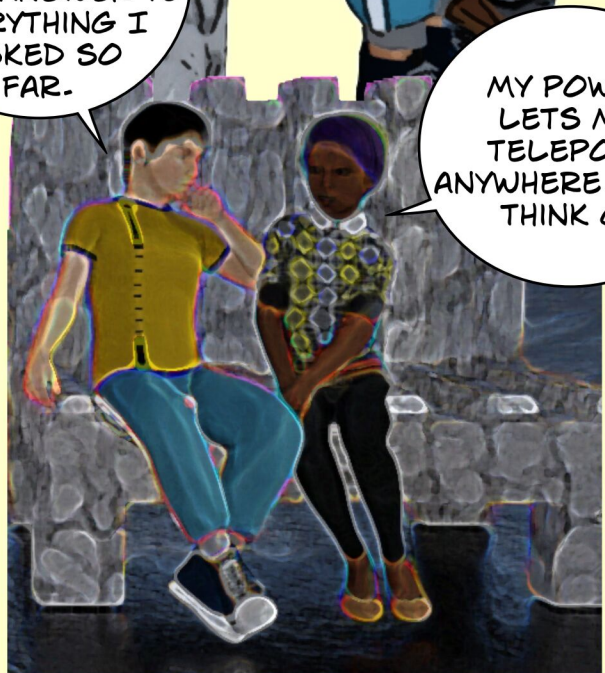
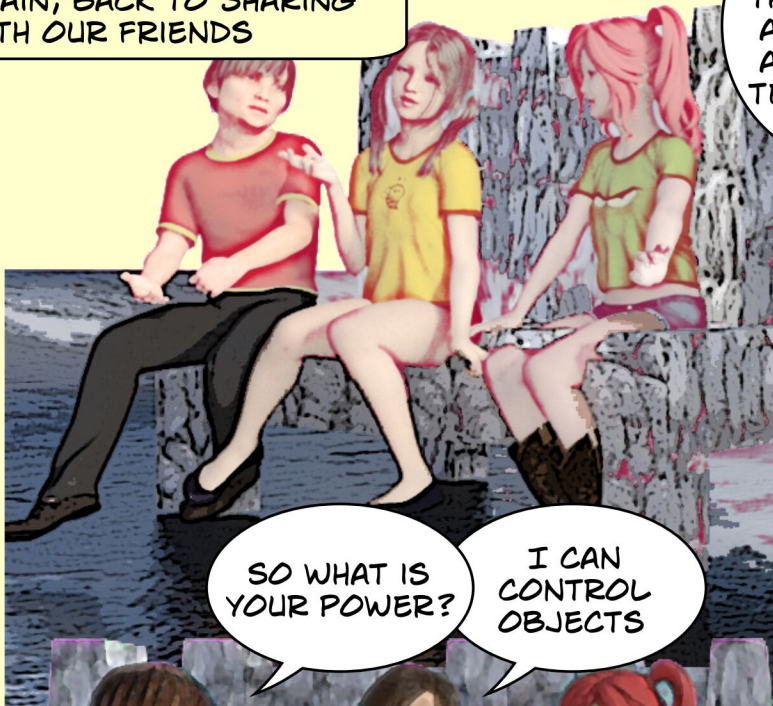
I CAN CONTROL OBJECTS

CAN YOU ASK IT ANYTHING AT ALL, LIKE THE MEANING OF LIFE

YOU CAN MOVE THEM AROUND?

I DON'T KNOW. IT'S TOLD ME THE RIGHT ANSWER TO EVERYTHING I ASKED SO FAR.

MY POWER LETS ME TELEPORT ANYWHERE I CAN THINK OF





COME ON SALLY, TELL US WHAT YOU CAN DO.



I CAN MOVE OBJECTS, BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT. IT'S LIKE THEY ARE PART OF ME.

LIKE AN ARM OR LEG. IT'S LIKE I CAN MAKE ANYTHING BECOME PART OF MY BODY AND THEN I CAN MOVE IT AROUND

OR CHANGE IT'S SHAPE. THAT'S HARDER BUT I CAN DO IT A LITTLE, LIKE MOLD OBJECTS INTO SHAPES WITH MY MIND



THAT'S SO COOL. I WISH I HAD A POWER LIKE THAT, OR EVEN KNEW WHAT MY POWER WAS...



THAT'S HOW I FOUND THE WAY INTO THE PORTAL WHERE YOU FOLKS FOUND ME THE OTHER DAY.



IN TERMS OF QUESTIONS, I WANT ANSWERED, I AM GOING TO ASK TIM IF HE WANTS TO GO SEE A MOVIE IN THE CITY, ONCE I WORK OUT HOW TO TELEPORT OTHER PEOPLE

THE NEXT DAY

HE REACHED OUT WITH HIS ONE-MIND POWER AND FROOZE SALLY IN PLACE. AS HE STARTED A FIRE ON THE ALTAR THE PORTAL REOPENED AND HER GEM FLOATED OUT OF HER BODY AND TOWARD THE PORTAL



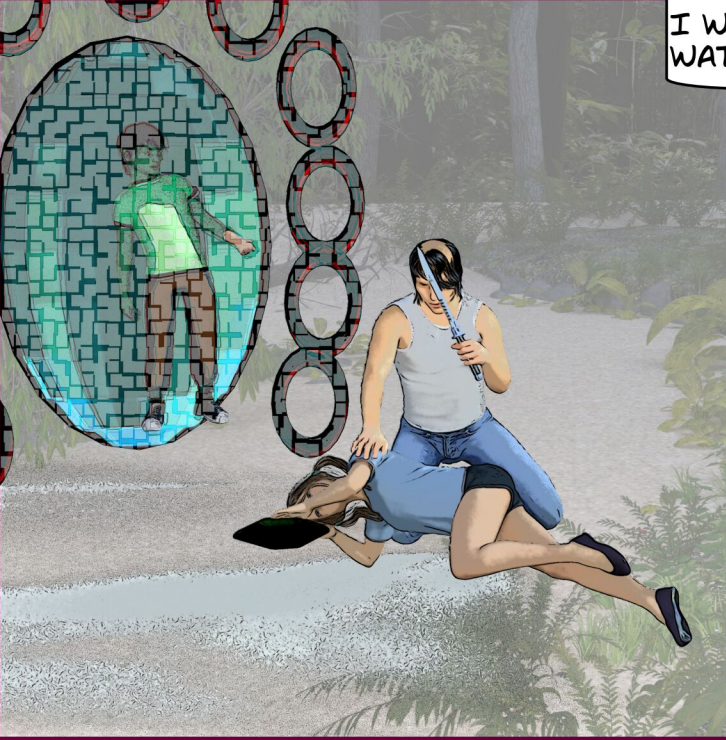
TIM TRIED TO GRAB THE GEM, BUT I RAN BEHIND AND PUNCHED HIM IN THE BACK BEFORE HE COULD.

SALLY WAS FREED FROM HIS GRIP AND GRABBED THE GEM, BUT IT PULLED HER TOWARD THE PORTAL



AND AS HARD AS I TRIED TO PULL HER BACK, SOMETHING WAS PULLING THE GEM INTO THE PORTAL AND SALLY WOULD NOT LET GO

I WAS FIVE FEET TOO FAR AWAY TO STOP HIM AS I WATCHED HIM STAB SALLY THROUGH THE BACK



SO THAT HE COULD TAKE HER GEM AND HAVE HER POWER.

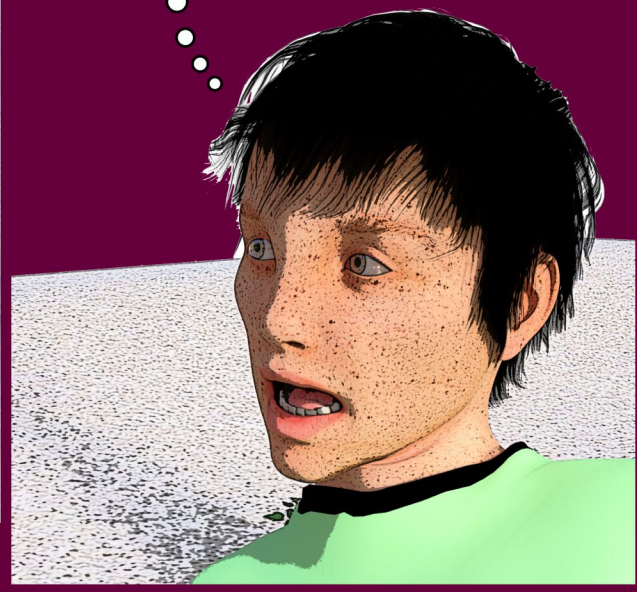


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THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE POWER ANSWERED A QUESTION THAT I HAD ONLY ASKED IN MY MIND. "HOW CAN I SAVE SALLY AND STOP TED?"

IT FELT LIKE I WAS TOLD THE WORDS OF A MAGIC SPELL FROM THE VOICE OF GOD.

OF COURSE NOW I KNOW WHAT IT REALLY IS, BUT STILL THAT MOMENT IS FOREVER ETCHED IN MY MIND AS THE CROSS ROADS THAT LEAD ME HERE.

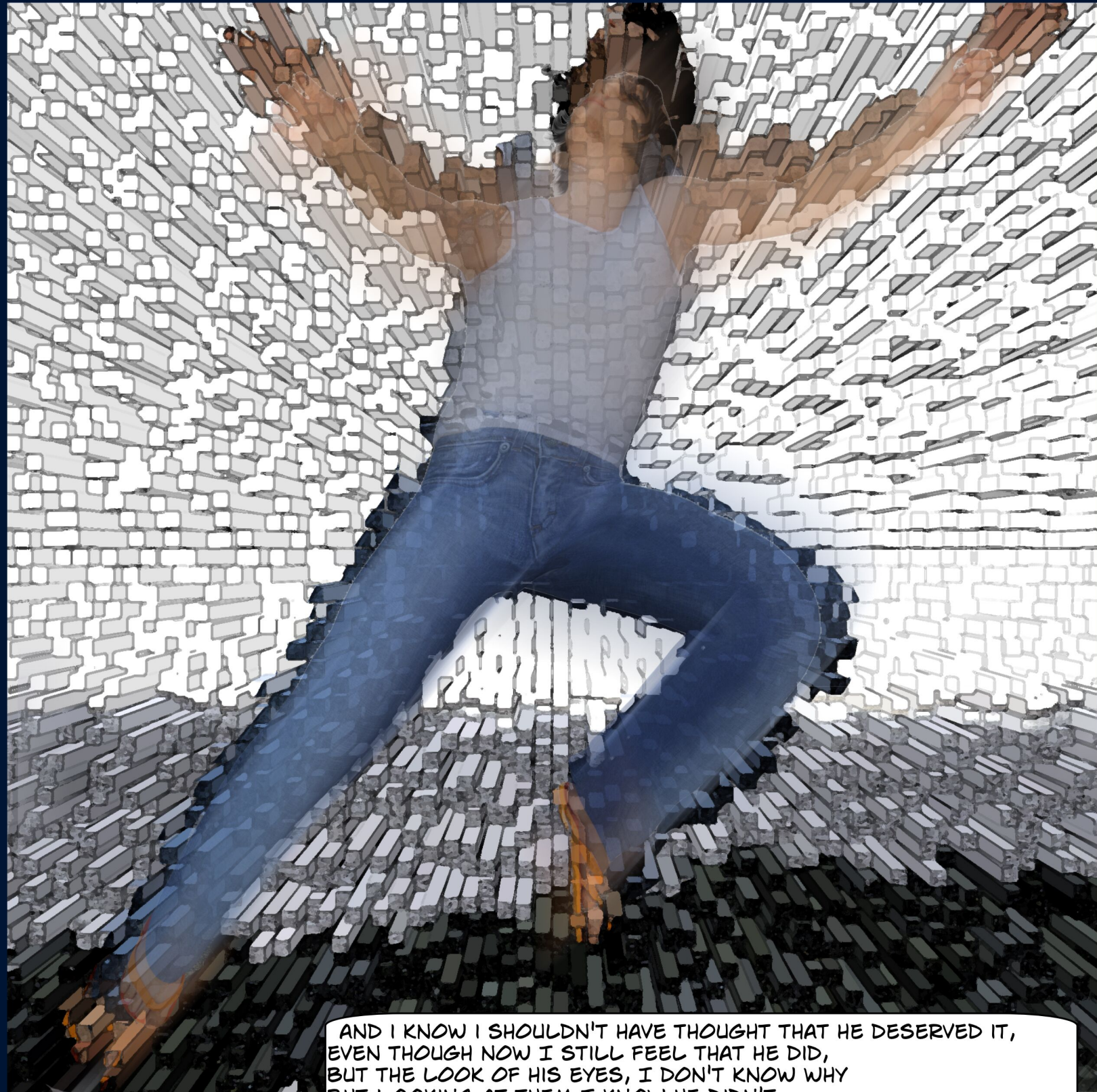


IT WAS LIKE A
TORRENT OF LIQUID FIRE
THAT CAME FROM MY
MOUTH IN THAT WAVE OF
SOUND.
AND IT THREW TED BACK.
AND THEN HE STARTED TO
DISSOLVE HIS BODY.
AND I COULDN'T WATCH
THE, , FROM MY MOUTH
TAKING HIM APART
AND SO I LOOKED AWAY,
BY TURNING MY HEAD

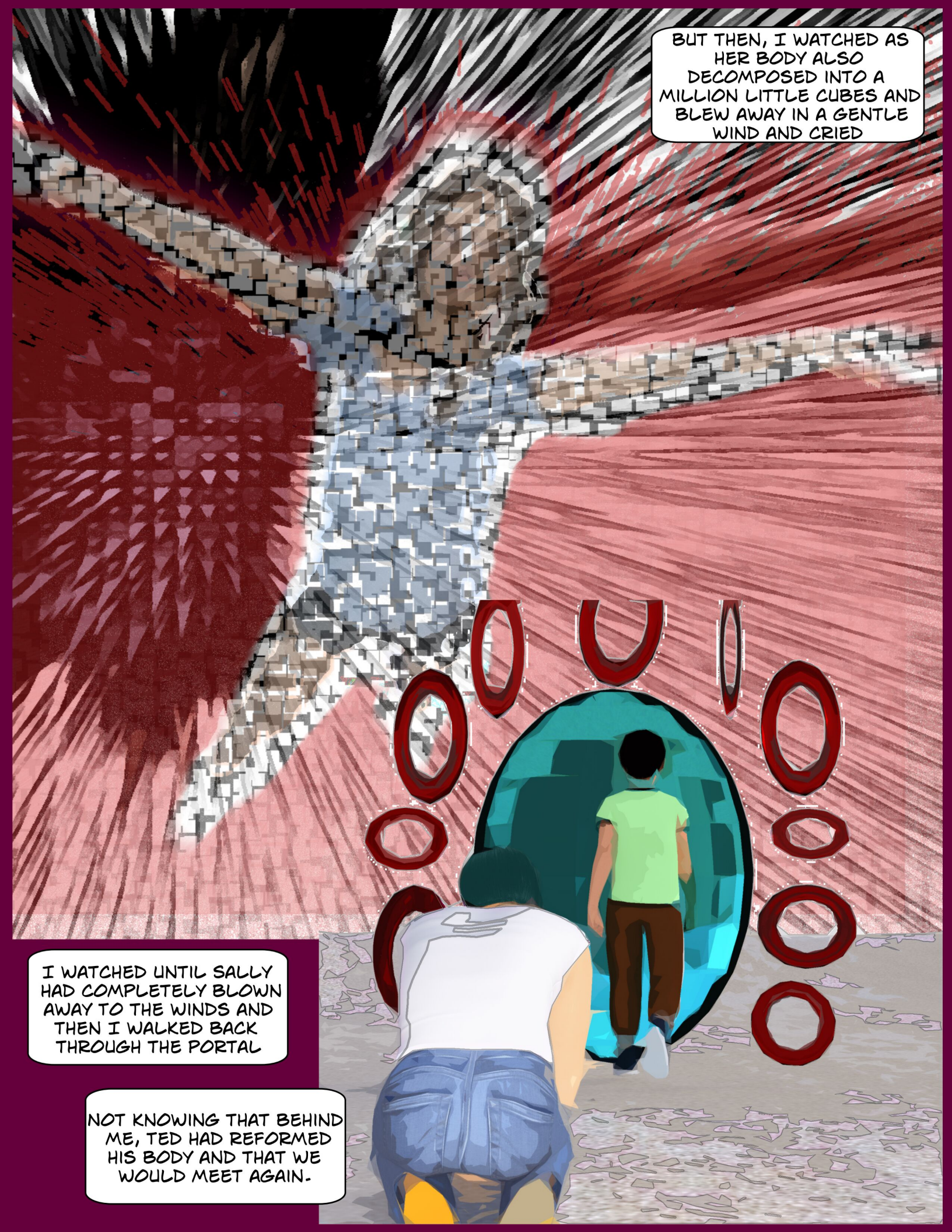


BUT, SHE STARTED MOVING AGAIN
AND I SAW HER SMILE
AND THEN ME
BEFORE SHE STARTED TO DISINTEGRATE
AND I COULDN'T CLOSE MY MOUTH

THE GENTLEST PERSON I KNEW,
HE KILLED
WHILE I WATCHED,
IN FRONT OF ME, IN FRONT OF US
WE HAD FOUND OUR POWERS,
BUT NOT YET FOUND THEY WERE
LESS A GIFT,
THAN AN OBLIGATION
AND THE OBLIGATION IS ULTIMATELY WHAT CAN MAKE YOU GENTLE



AND I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THAT HE DESERVED IT,
EVEN THOUGH NOW I STILL FEEL THAT HE DID,
BUT THE LOOK OF HIS EYES, I DON'T KNOW WHY
BUT LOOKING AT THEM I KNOW HE DIDN'T
THERE WAS ANOTHER PART OF THE STORY THAN THE PART I KNEW.



BUT THEN, I WATCHED AS
HER BODY ALSO
DECOMPOSED INTO A
MILLION LITTLE CUBES AND
BLEW AWAY IN A GENTLE
WIND AND CRIED

I WATCHED UNTIL SALLY
HAD COMPLETELY BLOWN
AWAY TO THE WINDS AND
THEN I WALKED BACK
THROUGH THE PORTAL

NOT KNOWING THAT BEHIND
ME, TED HAD REFORMED
HIS BODY AND THAT WE
WOULD MEET AGAIN.